

Title: Buried with Christ
Text: I Kings 13: 31-34
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I Kings 13: 31 And it came to pass, after he had buried him, that he spake to his sons, saying, When I am dead, then bury me in the sepulchre wherein the man of God *is* buried; lay my bones beside his bones: **32** For the saying which he cried by the word of the LORD against the altar in Bethel, and against all the houses of the high places which *are* in the cities of Samaria, shall surely come to pass. **33** After this thing Jeroboam returned not from his evil way, but made again of the lowest of the people priests of the high places: whosoever would, he consecrated him, and he became *one* of the priests of the high places. **34** And this thing became sin unto the house of Jeroboam, even to cut *it* off, and to destroy *it* from off the face of the earth.

A few weeks ago I preached a message from this chapter titled “Temptation under an Oak.” In that message, we focused our attention mainly on God’s prophet—“the man of God.” We learned from his faithfulness. Then we learned from his error: God’s prophet disobeyed God: went home to eat with the old prophet, which God expressly commanded him not to do. Then we learned from God’s faithfulness to chasten his child: God used a lion to take his prophet’s life. It was only temporal chastening. Some may have trouble with the fact that God took his life. But consider how awful our disobedience to God really is and what our sin deserves—eternal death—this was only temporal death. This life is not nearly as valuable as eternal life. God saved his prophet from being corrupted with the false religion in Bethel. Remember, Moses smote the rock. Therefore God chastened Moses. God buried Moses in the wilderness. He did not allow Moses to go into the land of Canaan. But God saved Moses eternally. Peter saw Moses in the mount of transfiguration. Speaking of Moses, Aaron and Samuel, Psalm 99: 6 says, “thou wast a God that forgavest them, though thou tookest vengeance of their inventions.”

Hebrews 12 6: For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth

1 Corinthians 11:32: But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world

But after I preached that message I kept looking at this chapter and began to see Christ all through it. So today,

Divisions: I. IN THE MAN OF GOD, WE WILL SEE CHRIST BY WAY OF COMPARISON AND CONTRAST; II. WE WILL SEE THE TWO EFFECTS OF THE GOSPEL; III. WE WILL SEE THE END OF THE UNBELIEVER AND THE BELIEVER

Title: Buried with Christ

Proposition: In the day of God’s judgment, the believer shall not suffer the wrath of God because our old man of sin was buried with Christ and we are now risen with Christ, made the righteousness of God in him.

I. IN THE MAN OF GOD, LET’S SEE CHRIST BY WAY OF COMPARISON AND CONTRAST

In the Person and Office

First, we see Christ in the person and office of the man of God.

Kings 13: 1: And, behold, there came a man of God out of Judah by the word of the LORD unto Bethel:

Christ Jesus is the preeminent Man of God—Christ is the Man who is both God and Man in one body—why? Christ came out of Judah—Christ is the Lion of the tribe of Judah—it was promised and God’ word is true. Christ

came by the word of the LORD—God sent his Son into this world, like as God sent his prophet to Bethel, exactly when he said he would.

1 Kings 13: 1:...and Jeroboam stood by the altar to burn incense.

Ten of the twelve tribes of Jacob had made Jeroboam their king and rebelled from the house of Judah. Jeroboam feared if the people went to Jerusalem to worship they might join the king of Judah. So he made two golden calves—one in Bethel and one in Dan. He made altars, made priest of those who were not of the tribe of Levi, changed the feast days and told the children to offer sacrifices there rather than going to Jerusalem like God had commanded. All of this so he could remain king. That is what sinners are doing in this world.

So God sent the man of God to Bethel to declare God's judgment. When Christ came in the flesh, the religious leaders in Israel—as well as sinners all over this world—were engaged in the vain religion of their own making, just like Jeroboam was. Still are.

In the Message

Secondly, we see Christ in the message the man of God declared.

1 Kings 13: 2: And he cried against the altar in the word of the LORD, and said, O altar, altar, thus saith the LORD; Behold, a child shall be born unto the house of David, Josiah by name; and upon thee shall he offer the priests of the high places that burn incense upon thee, and men's bones shall be burnt upon thee.

Christ declares judgment is coming...because...we are sinners and holy God will only receive us if we are represented by his High Priest, Christ Jesus, in the blood of his Lamb, Christ Jesus, upon his Altar, Christ Jesus. Christ alone made atonement for his people—accomplishing judgment for them on the cross. But for those who reject Christ there shall be a great burning of fierce judgment like it was told to Jeroboam.

In What the Man of God Did

Thirdly, we see Christ in what the man of God did for the old prophet. The old prophet asked the man of God to come home to eat with him.

1 Kings 13: 16: And he said, I may not return with thee, nor go in with thee: neither will I eat bread nor drink water with thee in this place: 17 For it was said to me by the word of the LORD, Thou shalt eat no bread nor drink water there, nor turn again to go by the way that thou camest.

The only way the man of God could have fellowship with the old prophet was for the man of God to become guilty before God. Likewise, the only way holy God could have fellowship with his people was for Christ to become guilty before God by taking the sin of his people so that God could execute justice upon him in place of his people. Christ did so willingly in obedience to the Father.

2 Corinthians 5: 21: For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

Galatians 3: 13: Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed *is* every one that hangeth on a tree:

1 Kings 13: 22 But camest back; The man of God DISOBEYED God by going back to the place God commanded he not go; Christ OBEYED the will of his Father “coming back” to Jerusalem at the hour appointed to be crucified.

John 12: 27: Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour.

John 14: 31 But that the world may know that I love the Father; and as the Father gave me commandment, even so I do. Arise, let us go hence.

1 Kings 13: 22:..thy carcass shall not come unto the sepulchre of thy fathers; When the man of God DISOBEYED, the Father CHASTENED him: in love as a son, forgiven of his sins, not in fierceness of offended justice, peace with God had been made because Christ was his Surety. But when Christ Jesus OBEYED the Father, taking the sin of his people upon himself, Christ bore the full stroke of divine justice which his people deserved—Isaiah 53: 5: But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the CHASTISEMENT of our peace was upon him.

Notice what the man of God was riding when he went forth to the rod. **1 Kings 13: 23:..he saddled for him the ASS;** Christ rode into Jerusalem to bear the chastisement of our peace on another man's, lowly asses colt.

1 Kings 13: 24: And when he was gone, a lion met him by the way, and slew him: and his carcass was cast in the way. The reason this was only temporal judgment for the man of God is because Christ met the lion in the way: Satan who roared as a lion, his enemies who Christ allowed to treat him so shamefully and nail him to the tree were a lion and his own justice which Christ bore for his people was the great lion. And like the prophet of God, Christ's body remained there upon the cross, "in the way" for all to see.

1 Kings 13: 24: and the ass stood by it, the lion also stood by the carcass...This was a sign to us of God's favor to his child. But catch this, the same lion God used to chasten his child, God now used to protect his body. When Christ satisfied divine justice and gave up the Ghost, God used the same men who hung Christ on the cross to protect his body so that no further harm came to it: the Jews who crucified him took Christ's body down from the cross so as not to break their Sabbath day.

1 Kings 13: 25: And, behold, men passed by, and saw the carcass cast in the way, and the lion standing by the carcass: and they came and told it in the city where the old prophet dwelt. God did this strange thing to get men's attention so they would broadcast it. Christ was not crucified in a corner but for all to see. Men are still talking about it to this day. I'm here to tell you about him today. By Christ obeying the Father unto death, God justified his people:

Roman 8: 33: Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? *It is* God that justifieth. 34: Who *is* he that condemneth? *It is* Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

Christ made atonement for his people. He put away the sin of his people. Our God is the Righteousness and Sanctification of his people. As Paul said, "I am persuaded that none of these things are hidden from [you]; for this thing was not done in a corner." (Ac 26:26) Sinner, you have heard the truth, now what will you do?

II. SECONDLY, WE SEE THE TWO EFFECTS THE GOSPEL HAS ON THOSE WHO HEAR.

We have two men who heard the truth: Jeroboam and the old prophet. We are not told if God saved the old prophet. But in these men we see two opposite effects the gospel has upon men.

Jeroboam did three things in rejecting Christ. These three things show us a variety of what sinners do who hear and reject the gospel.

He Tried to Kill the Messenger

1 Kings 13: 4:...when king Jeroboam heard the saying of the man of God, which had cried against the altar in Bethel, that he put forth his hand from the altar, saying, Lay hold on him.

The natural man by vain reasoning, and questioning is attempting to kill God and his Christ, to kill or discredit God's messengers, to kill or discredit the message of redemption. Sinner, the sin that shall never be forgiven is the sin of rejecting Christ Jesus the Lord.

Hebrews 10: 26 For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, 27 But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries. 28 He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses:29: Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?

He Tried to Gain Favor by His Doing

1 Kings 13: 7: And the king said unto the man of God, Come home with me, and refresh thyself, and I will give thee a reward.

Men are trying to bribe God with their works, God will not be bribed. We need to come down off our throne. We need to ask God to be merciful to take us into HIS house, accept us. We need God to refresh US: regenerate us, wash us in Christ's blood, robe us in Christ's righteousness. We have no reward to give God from our hands—

Deuteronomy 10:17: For the LORD your God is God of gods, and Lord of lords, a great God, a mighty, and a terrible, which regardeth not persons, nor taketh reward

He Continued in his Evil Way

1 Kings 13: 33: After this thing Jeroboam returned not from his evil way, but made again of the lowest of the people priests of the high places: whosoever would, he consecrated him, and he became one of the priests of the high places.

Jeroboam is an example of what all men will do if left to themselves.

Now, let's look at the old lying prophet.

1 Kings 13: 11: Now there dwelt an old prophet in Bethel;

Note: We do not know if this man ever believed in spirit and in truth. Focus on the things that edify us.

Religious but Dead

Brethren, we were like this man: religious, he had an office in religion, but he was in a land of idolatry—In a church or not, all men are religious by nature. But apart from God's grace teaching us in Spirit, believer, you and I were just religious liars, living in a land of idolatry.

He Heard through his Sons

Then, the old prophet heard about God's preacher and his message.

1 Kings 13: 11:...and his sons came and told him all the works that the man of God had done that day in Bethel: the words which he had spoken unto the king, them they told also to their father.

God often uses something like this to draw his people and cross their path with the gospel. The sons were at a place of idolatrous worship. But that day God sent his preacher to that place. His sons came home and told their father what God's preacher said and the works he did. Always go home and tell your fathers and mothers, sons and daughters, and neighbors what you've heard: not the works of the preacher, the works of Christ Jesus the Son of God. The old prophet made great effort to hurriedly go to where the man of God was. The old prophet even asked God's messenger to come home to eat with him. A lost man may go for years with enmity against God, but when God begins a work of grace in his heart, he finds himself desiring to hear the truth. He'll even invite them home to his house.

The Word of the Lord Came

We saw last time, the LORD used the old prophet to rebuke his prophet. But what the LORD did to make him speak his word is what makes the gospel effectual in the heart.

1 Kings 13: 20: And it came to pass, as they sat at the table, that THE WORD OF THE LORD CAME unto the prophet that brought him back:

When Christ the Word comes into a sinner, when the Spirit of God enters and takes over, that is when we believe God.

He Beheld the Man of God Died Because of Him

God makes us hear in our hearts about the death of Christ.

1 Kings 13: 25...they came and told it in the city where the old prophet dwelt. v26: And when the prophet that brought him back from the way heard thereof, he said, It is the man of God...

The Spirit of God makes us behold Christ Jesus on the cross. The old prophet knew it was because of him that the man of God died. The Spirit of God makes his child to realize, that it was because of me—my lies, my sin—that Christ bore what I deserved, taking my place on that cross.

He Laid Hold, Publicly Identified and Mourned

The old prophet laid hold of the body of the man of God, publicly identified himself with him and mourned for him.

1 Kings 13: 29: And the prophet took up the carcase of the man of God, and laid it upon the ass, and brought it back: and the old prophet came to the city, to mourn and to bury him. 30: And he laid his carcase in his own grave; and they mourned over him, saying, Alas, my brother!

Zechariah 12: 10: And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for *his* only *son*, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for *his* firstborn.

What the old prophet did reminds us of Joseph of Arimathaea?

Matthew 27: 57: When the even was come, there came a rich man of Arimathaea, named Joseph, who also himself was Jesus' disciple: 58: He went to Pilate, and begged the body of Jesus. Then Pilate commanded the body to be delivered. 59: And when Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, 60: And laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock: and he rolled a great stone to the door of the sepulchre, and departed.

The sinner who is made to see that his sin put Christ on the tree, is made willing to identify with Christ though it will mean persecution.

He Believed and Desired to Buried with the Man of God

God makes us to believe Christ. We confess we are dead and were buried with Christ and rose again, we confess him in believer's baptism.

1 Kings 13: 31: And it came to pass, after he had buried him, that he spake to his sons, saying, When I am dead, then bury me in the sepulchre wherein the man of God *is* buried; lay my bones beside his bones: 32: For the saying which he cried by the word of the LORD against the altar in Bethel, and against all the houses of the high places which *are* in the cities of Samaria, shall surely come to pass.

Romans 6: 3: Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? 4 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also *in the likeness* of *his* resurrection: 6 Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with *him*, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

Colossians 2: 11 In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ: 12 BURIED WITH HIM in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with *him* through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead. 13: And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;

III. NOW LET'S SEE THE END OF THOSE WHO REJECT CHRIST AND OF THOSE WHO BELIEVE BY THE GRACE OF GOD.

Jeroboam Was Cut Off

1 Kings 13: 34: And this thing became sin unto the house of Jeroboam, even to cut *it* off, and to destroy *it* from off the face of the earth.

Those who meet God outside of Christ shall be cut off, not just from the face of the earth, but eternally in hell.

The Old Prophet was Spared

But what happened to the old prophet who was buried with Christ? We do not know his eternal state. But in what happened to him physically, we see a picture of what shall happen spiritually for those who believe we were buried with Christ and redeemed from all condemnation.

Over 300 years passed from the time the prophet declared that judgment would come at the hand of Josiah—it has been over 2000 years since Christ said he is coming again. But Josiah came according to the word of the Lord and judgment came according to the word of the Lord. Christ is coming to judge the world in righteousness. But as Josiah was destroying everything, something wonderful happened—

2 Kings 23: 15: Moreover the altar that *was* at Bethel, *and* the high place which Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin, had made, both that altar and the high place he brake down, and burned the high place, *and* stamped *it* small to powder, and burned the grove. 16: And as Josiah turned himself, he spied the sepulchres that *were* there in the mount, and sent, and took the bones out of the sepulchres, and burned *them* upon the altar, and polluted it, ACCORDING TO THE WORD OF THE LORD WHICH THE MAN

OF GOD PROCLAIMED, WHO PROCLAIMED THESE WORDS 17 Then he said, WHAT TITLE IS THAT I SEE? And the men of the city told him, *It is* the SEPULCHRE OF THE MAN OF GOD, WHICH CAME FROM JUDAH, and proclaimed these things that thou hast done against the altar of Bethel. 18: And he said, Let him alone; let no man move his bones. So they let his bones alone, WITH THE BONES OF THE PROPHET THAT CAME OUT OF SAMARIA.

In the great day of God's judgment, while all others are being destroyed with fire, God will say, "What title is this I see." The declaration will be made it is Christ Jesus the Man of God. This will be the word of God toward those who are found in Christ, "Let him alone!" Justice has been satisfied for those who were crucified with Christ. Our body of death was buried when Christ was buried. We arose in him.

Romans 8: 1: *There is* therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

Are you buried with Christ? Do you now live because he lives in you? May God give us grace to believe on Christ.

Amen!